

Hepatitis B Vaccination Requirements for the UNC School of Pharmacy CLASS OF 2011

EVERY ACCEPTANCE INTO OUR PROGRAM IS CONDITIONAL ON YOUR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF OUR ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS. ONE OF THE NON-ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS IS THAT THE ENTIRE THREE INJECTION SERIES OF THE HEPATITIS B VACCINE MUST BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 1, 2007. **IF YOU ARE ACCEPTED AND WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR DOCUMENTATION OF THIS INFORMATION BY AUGUST 1, 2007, YOU WILL BE DISMISSED FOR FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS OF OUR PROGRAM.**

A. If you have not previously received the Hepatitis B vaccine:

Begin immediately! Do not delay until you are accepted into the School of Pharmacy. The series takes six months to complete; therefore, you must start the series no later than **February 1, 2007 to meet the August 1 deadline.** After you have completed the series, follow the guidelines below in section C.

- Obtain Hepatitis B vaccine injections at 0, 1 and 6 months

B. If you have started the Hepatitis B vaccination series sometime in the past but have not completed the series:

You must obtain the remaining injections to complete the entire three injection series. It is not necessary to start the series over again. After you have completed the entire series, follow the guidelines below in section C.

- Finish completing the entire 3 injection series (it is not necessary to start over)

C. After you have completed the Hepatitis B vaccination series:

You must provide official documentation of all three injections. In addition, you must have a Hepatitis B titer drawn that is at least one month after the third Hepatitis B vaccine injection. Ideally, the titer should be drawn from 1-6 months after the completion of the Hepatitis B vaccine series. However, regardless of when you completed the series, you must have a titer drawn that is a minimum of one month after completion of the third Hepatitis B vaccine injection. You must provide the documentation of the titer to the School of Pharmacy by October 1. If your titer is adequate, no further documentation is necessary. If your titer is not adequate, you will need to receive one additional booster vaccine dose. One month after the booster dose, you will need to obtain a second Hepatitis B titer. If your second titer is adequate, no further documentation is necessary. If your second titer is not adequate, you will need to receive two additional doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine, which will complete an entire second series of vaccine. One month after the completion of the second vaccine series, you will need to obtain a third Hepatitis B titer. If your third titer is positive, you should have immunity to the virus. If your third titer is still negative, you will need to remember that you do not have documented immunity to the virus. If you are ever exposed to the Hepatitis B virus, you will need to follow a non-responders protocol. Regardless of the results, you will have completed all of our requirements for Hepatitis B vaccination.

- Provide documentation of all three vaccine injections from health provider by August 1.
- Have titer drawn at least one month after completion of vaccine series and submit by October 1.
- If titer is negative, you must receive a booster vaccine dose.
- At least one month after booster vaccine dose, obtain a second Hepatitis B titer.
- If second titer is negative, obtain two additional Hepatitis B vaccine injections to complete the second vaccine series.
- At least one month after completing the second series, obtain a third Hepatitis B titer.
- If third titer is negative, you need to remember that you are a non-responder in case you are ever exposed to the Hepatitis B virus. In addition, you may require further testing to determine that your immune system is functioning properly.

Please note: We only require that the initial three injection series be completed prior to August 1, 2007. The remaining procedures must be completed by the deadlines posted on the second page of this document.

UNC-Chapel Hill may require you to submit documentation for certain immunizations to Student Health Services. However, this does not substitute for the information required by the School of Pharmacy. **Please make sure to keep copies of all your documentation and to carefully read all instructions about which/when materials are due.** It is your responsibility to assure that the appropriate forms are mailed to the appropriate locations by specified deadlines. Failure to do so will cause your admission to the School of Pharmacy to be cancelled for failure to complete the requirements of our program. There can be no exceptions to this rule.

Deadlines for Hepatitis B vaccination requirements for the UNC School of Pharmacy

Deadline Date	Action
August 1	Documentation of ALL three injections of the Hepatitis B vaccination series submitted to Ms. Dail White
October 1	ALL students must have a Hepatitis B titer drawn at least four weeks after the completion of the three injection vaccine series. If this titer is positive, documentation of the titer must be submitted to Ms. Dail White by this date. You will have completed all of our requirements for Hepatitis B.

If first titer is negative:

Deadline Date	Action
November 1	Booster dose of vaccine must be received by this date (first injection of second series).
January 15	Second titer must be drawn by this date. If the titer is positive, you need to submit documentation of all Hepatitis B injections and titers not previously submitted to Ms. Dail White by this date. You will have completed all of our requirements for Hepatitis B.

If second titer is negative:

Deadline Date	Action
February 1	Second injection of second series must be received by this date.
May 1	Third injection of second series must be received by this date.
June 15	Third titer must be drawn by this date.
July 1	Submit documentation for all Hepatitis B vaccination requirements that have not previously been submitted to Ms. Dail White by this date. You will have completed all of our requirements for Hepatitis B.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM UNC-CHAPEL HILL SCHOOL OF PHARMACY APPLICANTS ABOUT HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

Note: It is recommended that applicants applying for the 2007-2008 academic year begin the Hepatitis B vaccination series as soon as possible. Please do not wait for an admissions decision to begin the process.

What is Hepatitis B and why is it a serious concern?

Hepatitis B is a viral infection caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). Each year, thousands of people are acutely infected with Hepatitis B. After infection, the acute phase may last for months and include signs and symptoms of fatigue, weakness, anorexia, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain, joint pain, or jaundice. A small percentage of patients will go on to develop fulminant hepatic failure, associated with coagulopathy, encephalopathy, and cerebral edema. Up to 12 percent of acutely infected HBV patients will remain chronically infected with the HBV, which means that they have life-long disease, can transmit the disease to others, and are at risk for developing cirrhosis, fibrosis, liver failure, and liver cancer. Approximately 5,000 people die of chronic liver problems caused by the HBV infection each year. Because HBV is potentially a life-threatening disease that can be prevented, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the CDC currently recommends that all children receive the Hepatitis B vaccine starting at birth before hospital discharge.

Why do I need to be vaccinated against Hepatitis B?

HBV vaccination is the most effective means of preventing HBV infection. HBV infection is the major infectious hazard for health care personnel. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends HBV vaccination for selected high-risk groups, including health care workers that may reasonably anticipate skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. In addition, the CDC recommends that HBV vaccination should be completed during training in schools of health professions, before trainees have their first contact with blood. In the UNC School of Pharmacy, students are potentially exposed to blood contact in their first year. Thus, we require that you be fully immunized or have documentation of HBV antibodies August 1 PRIOR to starting classes in the School of Pharmacy.

Is the Hepatitis B vaccine effective?

After completion of the three injection series, the Hepatitis B vaccine is 95 percent effective in preventing HBV infection and clinical Hepatitis.

Is the Hepatitis B vaccine safe?

Yes. Millions of people have received the Hepatitis B vaccine. It has been shown to be generally safe when administered to either adults or children. Pain at the injection site and an elevated temperature are the most frequently reported side effects. Although rare, serious allergic reactions have occurred.

How do I get the Hepatitis B vaccine?

You may contact Student Health, your local health department, or your local primary care physician to administer the Hepatitis B vaccine. It is a three injection series that is usually given at 0, 1 and 6 months. The second dose should be given at least one month after the first dose. The third dose should be given at least two months after the second dose and at least four months after the first dose.

Do I need to get a blood titer after I complete the Hepatitis B vaccine series?

Yes, the CDC recommends that post-vaccination titers should be drawn for persons at occupational risk who may have exposures from injuries with sharp instruments, because knowledge of their antibody response will aid in determining appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis. Therefore, we require blood titers on everyone. Ideally, this titer should be drawn from 1-6 months after the completion of the vaccine series. If you completed the Hepatitis B vaccine sometime in the past, you still must provide documentation of a blood titer, even if it is much longer than 6 months past the completion of the vaccine series.

Please note: Your admission into the School of Pharmacy is conditional, among other things, on completion of the Hepatitis B vaccination series. However, this does not include the timing of the titer and if necessary, a second series of vaccines. We only require the initial three injection series to be completed prior to August 1, 2007. The remaining procedures may be completed by specific deadlines during the school year. These deadlines will be provided to applicants accepted for admission.

I had a blood titer done after the series was completed, and the results were negative. What should I do?

Persons with a negative titer should receive one booster dose of the vaccine. A repeat blood titer should be done one to two months after the booster dose is received. If this titer is positive, no further action is necessary. If your titer is not adequate (non-detectable or below the immunity level), you will need to receive two additional doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine,

which will complete an entire second series of vaccine. One month after the completion of the second series, you will need to obtain a third Hepatitis B titer. If your titer is positive, you should have immunity to the virus. If your titer is still negative, you will need to remember that you do not have documented immunity to the virus and if you are ever exposed to the HBV, you will need to follow a non-responders protocol. Regardless of the results, you will have completed all of our requirements for Hepatitis B vaccination.

I'm not sure that I had the Hepatitis B vaccine previously. What should I do?

You should contact your physician's office and ask them to review your records and provide you with the documentation.

My physician's office is unable to provide documentation that I received the HBV vaccine series. What should I do?

A blood titer may indicate that you were previously vaccinated. If the blood titer is negative, you should receive one booster dose of vaccine. A repeat blood titer should be done one to two months after the booster dose is received. If it is positive, then you must have received and responded to the vaccine previously. If it is negative, then you must follow the guidelines noted above.

I had one or two shots of the Hepatitis B vaccine series earlier, but haven't completed the three shot series? Do I need to start the vaccination series over?

No. If the Hepatitis B vaccine series is delayed after the first dose, the second dose can be administered at any time (at least 1 month after the first dose). The third dose should be administered at least two months after the second dose and at least four months after the first dose. If the Hepatitis B vaccine series is delayed after the second dose; the third dose can be administered when convenient. When the Hepatitis B vaccine series is delayed, the immune response does not seem to be effected.

How long will my immunity to HBV last from the vaccine? Do I need to get a booster?

No. Booster doses of vaccine are not routinely recommended at this time. However, with the routine HBV vaccination of all infants, studies will be on going to discern the possible need for Hepatitis B vaccine booster doses.

I've gotten the first and/or second injection of the Hepatitis B vaccine series, but am not eligible for the third and final injection until after classes start for the pharmacy school. Can I just complete my series later and start classes in August?

No! We require that you complete the entire Hepatitis B vaccine series August 1 prior to starting classes in the pharmacy school. Our students are exposed to potential sources of contamination during the first year of training and the best way to ensure that you will not be infected is by completing the Hepatitis B vaccine series. You will not be allowed to start the first day of pharmacy school without providing official documentation that you have completed the Hepatitis B vaccine series or that you have antibodies to the HBV by August 1, 2007.

Where do I send the completed information of my Hepatitis B vaccine and is there a deadline?

Once you have been accepted into the School of Pharmacy, you will receive a health information documentation form. You will need to have a physician or other appropriate health care professional complete the form and return to the School of Pharmacy. This documentation must be received in its completed form by August 1, 2007. Otherwise, you will be denied admission to the School of Pharmacy. Remember; do not wait for an admissions decision to begin the process. It may take six months to complete the series.

Information was obtained from the Centers for Disease Control website at: www.cdc.gov